

High School Reflection

I was homeschooled from the time I was four years old until the day I first set foot on the campus of PCC to attend a class. So, for me to say my educational path has been a little different would be an understatement.

My High School experience was very different also. I got to work at my own pace, pursue things that I loved, and have a social experience that I will remember for years to come.

The main thing I learned in High School, and the reason I'm at PCC, wasn't something I learned in a classroom setting but something I learned sitting up in my room under my bedroom window: I learned that I loved radio.

I loved listening to radio, participating and calling in to shows, and recording and doing "shows" just like ones I would hear on the radio. My parents were very supportive as I went away for hours on end developing characters and putting into practice things I had studied from listening to AM radio talk shows on a daily (and sometimes nightly) basis.

Although my parents were are and still are very supportive, my Mom was beginning to become a little flustered at the fact I was spending a good portion of my freshmen year in high school sitting in my room recording conversations I was having in-character with myself.

She eventually went to a lady named Mrs. Carolyn Forte who ran a (homeschooling bookstore in Arcadia), and told her how she loved what I was doing, but felt like I might need to be "reigned in" a bit and do more structured activities. The advice Mrs. Forte gave her is something my family still talks about today. Her advice was, "Let him do the things that bring him life". More than anything, it brought me life to perfect and study the art of radio, so with the blessing and support of my parents that's what I did.

I could go on for many paragraphs about all of the rabbit trails, blessings, and connections that took me from talking to myself in-character in my room, to the open door at Pasadena Southwest Little League to announce as many Little League baseball games as I could. The timing of the opportunity couldn't have been better. It was just around that time I had discovered sports radio was the radio format I really was passionate about. And now I had a chance to test it out with other people listening. I don't really know the full impact of how much people appreciate it, (although a lot of people would come up to me to say thanks after games and tell me that they really enjoyed it).

That story brings me to why I'm at PCC.

During the first Little League season I announced, parents would come up and ask me what my plans were for getting into broadcasting and where I was going after High School. One parent in particular had a friend who put me in touch with Larry Mantle, the host of "AirTalk" on KPCC. I got to meet Mr. Mantle last summer and told him about myself, my goal to become a play-by-play sports broadcaster, and the story about how I developed a passion for radio. He was very encouraging and said I reminded him of his younger self in terms of how he started out. His advice was to start by going to PCC and getting into their radio program, and then look into some local schools with a good broadcasting program. He specifically mentioned Cal State Northridge as one of those schools. Later that summer, I met with him again right after attending a weeklong play-by-play sports broadcasting camp on the UCLA campus in Westwood. I listened to his great advice about how to improve my broadcasting skills and how to find opportunities to do what I love.

I am currently studying radio production with the goal of obtaining a certificate and transferring to Cal State Northridge to study communications. My career goal is to do play-by-play on the radio for a major league baseball team. I would love to do play-by-play for other sports as well, but baseball is my favorite.

I still have the support of my family to lean on as I make the transition into college, and I'm grateful that PCC has such helpful places like The Learning Center to help out if I need more help and support outside my family.

I know it won't be easy, but I'm willing to put my head down and study. I've always been willing to do some hard work if I know the end goal is that I'll get to do something that gives me life.

Introduction video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O95HlpZpns>

I wanted to explain my main reason for going to PCC in a very brief way. It's very similar to the reflection I've shared but it's a bit shorter and more to the point.